to systematic exploration of granite throughout the country including the State of Orissa.

Programme organised by the NER Woman Welfare Organisation

†740. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme organised by the North-Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation of 4th June in the headquarters of North-Eastern Railways was held as a private or an official programme.

(b) whether the whole Railway machinery was engaged in the said programme and the expenses for this programme was met out of Railway's funds;

(c) if not, whether Government took any action after obtaining information regarding it so that the official money is recovered and action is taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The programme organised by the North-Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation on 4th June in the headquarters of North-Eastern Railways was held as a private programme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Policy for Allotment of Railways Bookstalls

741. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what is the policy and procedure followed for allotment of bookstalls at platforms/stations on Indian Railways;

(b) what is the policy for appointment of vendors, stall keepers and agents at bookstalls on Indian Railways;

(c) whether any agreement is executed with the vendors, stall keepers and agents by the appointing authority at the time of their appointment on Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Allotment of bookstall is done by the zonal Railways after inviting applications from the eligible categories *viz.* unemployed graduates, their co-operatives, partnerships associations and co-operative societies of actual workers and vendors. Selection is made by a committee of officers as per prescribed procedure and guidelines. However, in case of M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co., M/s. Higginbothams Ltd. and Philanthropic societies/religious organisation allotment is done at the level of Railway Board on recommendation of zonal Railways.

(b) to (d) Appointment of vendors, stall keepers and agents of bookstalls is done by the bookstall licensees themselves under their own terms and conditions. Railways enter into an agreement with the licensees only and no agreement is executed with the vendors, stalls keepers, agents etc.

Rail Accidents

742. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents that have taken place during the current year, so far;

(b) whether inquiries have been held into each accident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF